

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action mailed March 31, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 12, 13, 17-20, 39, 41, 50, and 51 and allowed claims 1-3, 5-11, 21-24, 26, and 28-38. Further, the Examiner objected to claims 14-16 and 42-44 for depending from a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims each contain allowable subject matter. Applicants canceled claims 4, 25, 27, 40, and 45-49 in a previous communication.

On May 31, 2005, Applicants filed a Response to the Final Office Action that included amendments to claims 12, 39, and 50 which were believed to place the application in condition for allowance. In the subsequent Advisory Action, the Examiner indicated that he would enter the amendments for purposes of appeal, and that all pending claims would be allowable except for claims 44, 50, and 51. Particularly, the Examiner indicated that, if appealed, claims 50 and 51 would be rejected, while claim 44 would be objected to. However, the Advisory Action did not indicate whether the amendments would or would not be entered for other purposes besides appeal. As such, Applicants are resubmitting the amendments to claim 12 and 39 and the cancellation of claims 16 and 43, which were originally submitted in the Response filed by Applicants on May 31, 2005, in addition to the new amendments submitted herewith.

Applicants again thank the Examiner for the recognition of allowable subject matter in the present claims. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's characterization of the art of record, particularly with respect to claims 50 and 51, Applicants have chosen to place the present application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, by the present Response, Applicants amend claims 12, 39, and 44 to further clarify the claimed subject matter and cancel claims 16, 43, 50, and 51. Specifically, Applicants amend independent claims 12 and 39 to incorporate allowable subject matter originally recited in claims 16 and 43, respectively. Applicants also amend claim 44 to depend from claim 39, instead of canceled claim 43. Upon entry of these amendments, claims 1-3, 5-15, 17-24, 26, 28-39, 41, 42, and 44 will remain pending in the present

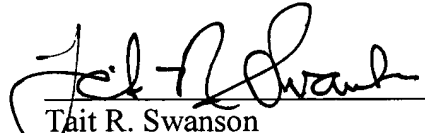
patent application and are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request entry of these amendments and allowance of all pending claims.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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